

III. Remarks

Claims 1 – 31 are pending herein. No amendments to the claims have been presented herewith.

Claims 1 – 31 stand rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1 – 31 of U.S. Patent No. 6,688,389.


Applicant submits herewith a Terminal Disclaimer which is effective to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejection over the above-mentioned patent.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection of claims 1 – 31 has been overcome and it is therefore requested that it be withdrawn.

For the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 – 31 are in condition for allowance and a favorable reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 – 31 are therefore respectfully requested.

The examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

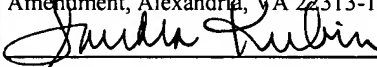


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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on May 24, 2004



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